

REMARKS

Reconsideration and reexamination is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 has been amended to correct formal matters only. Claims 3 and 7 have been editorially amended accordingly. The revision of claim 1, 3 and 7 are supported, for instance, at page 2, lines 5-6 and Figure 11. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by the proposed revisions. Claims 1-7 are pending.

Claims 1, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 now recites an oil chamber divided into "two chambers by a vane." This feature is supported for example at page 2, lines 5-6 and in Figure 11. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that this feature is provided with proper antecedent basis and is definite.

Claims 3 and 7 have been editorially amended to be in accordance with the revisions of claim 1. Therefore, these claims are definite for at least the same reasons with respect to claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the features of the claims are provided with proper antecedent basis and are definite.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada et al (680), which has an effective filing date of March 9, 2004.

Applicants wish to overcome the instant rejection by submitting a translation verified by Ms. Tomomi Komatsu of the Japanese priority application with serial No. 2003-079157 dated March 20, 2003, of which Applicants claimed benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 at the time of filing on March 16, 2004. The certified copy of the priority application also was submitted at the time of filing. By submitting the translation, the effective filing date of the present U.S. application will be retroactive to a priority date of March 20, 2003, which is earlier than the effective filing date of Yamada et al (680). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. For at least the

foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the novelty rejection is overcome by the translation.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

With the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration by the Examiner in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: June 29, 2005

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